

consisting of an antibody, an antibiotic, mannose binding protein (MBP), Toll-Like Receptor 2 (TLR-2), and histatins.

24. Cancel claim 24.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the antibiotic is polymixin or bacitracin.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 14-23, and 25-39 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Applicants submit that the claim amendments introduce no new matter and raise no new issues.

The issues raised by the Examiner are addressed below in the order they appear in the Office Action.

1. Applicants acknowledge that the amendment filed on October 8, 2002, has been entered.

2. Applicants note with appreciation that the rejection of claims 1-8 and 14-18 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and the rejection of claim 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph have been withdrawn.

3-4. Claims 1, 3-6, 14, and 16 and 23-24 are asserted as allegedly being unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Chan in view of McLaughlin and Tadler *et al.* for the reasons of record. The Examiner maintains that:

[I]t would have been prima facie obvious to modify the simultaneous multiple analyte detection immunoassay taught by Chan by incorporating a set of binding agents taught by McLaughlin and Tadler *et al.*, since McLaughlin teach antibodies which specifically bind to gram-negative bacteria in order to determine their presence and/or absence while